GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:658
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2016
Essential Medicines
Adityanath Shri Yogi;Dhurve Smt. Jyoti;Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay";Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of essential medicines in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the black marketing of essential drugs and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote the production of low-cost generic versions of essential expensive medicines;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) whether the Government has included/removed medicines from the list of essential medicines and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a): Some reports regarding non-availability of human albumin injection have been received by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. The lesser supply of plasma is the major reason for shortage of albumin. The manufacturers/importers are advised to take steps to rush stocks to areas where shortage of medicines is reported.
(b): No complaint regarding black marketing of essential drugs has been received in the recent past. As per provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order, the manufacturers selling a scheduled / non-scheduled formulation at a price higher than the price permissible under the said Order are liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with interest thereon from the date of such overcharging.
(c) & (d): The Government continues to encourage pharmaceutical companies to manufacture high quality and low priced generic drugs.
(e): A total of 106 medicines have been added to, and 70 medicines have been deleted from National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2011 to prepare NLEM, 2015 which now contains a total of 376 medicines.